

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

# The power of preparation

ith severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics. Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

• Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.

• Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (e.g., via text,

social media, third party, etc.).

• Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.

• Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a safety deposit box).

• Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.

• Fill your car with gas.

• Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### **Caring for vulnerable family members**

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.





Wendy Sellers President/CE0

### Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

• Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.

• Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.

• Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.

• Create an emergency kit for pets, including shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies.

At Washington EMC, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



258 N. Harris St. • P.O. Box 598 Sandersville, GA 31082 Email: wemc@washingtonemc.com Website: www.washingtonemc.com Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mildred W. Jackson, Chair. Tennille Mike McDonald, Secretary/Treasurer, Warrenton Mike Beckworth, Harrison Brenda English, Milledgeville Billy Helton, Warthen Jeff Lacksen, Sparta Ken Vickers, Wrightsville

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

**PHONES** Local (478) 552-2577 Long distance (800) 552-2577

#### **24-HOUR CALL CENTER**

To report a power interruption please call: Local (478) 552-2577 Long distance (800) 552-2577

#### **BRANCH LOCATIONS**

12860 Broad St. Sparta, GA 31087

100 W. College St. Wrightsville, GA 31096

**Convenient bill pay options include: Drive-thru payment window** 319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pay your bill online www.washingtonemc.com Use the free Washington EMC mobile app Look for WEMC in the App Store or Android Market. Pay by phone (478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

# **Unclaimed capital credits**

### Last date to claim a capital credit check is September 30, 2022

ere you a Washington EMC member in 1995 or 1996? If so, you may have funds to claim. Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit check was issued August 31, 2016, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable," or otherwise remains unclaimed.

A current list of the names of these members and instructions for claiming these funds is posted on our website at www.washingtonemc. com. This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for reviewing during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2022. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by law. To claim a refund or submit any question about this notice or the list, contact the Washington EMC office by calling (478) 552-2577.



HAPPY LABOR DAY

In observance of Labor Day, our business office will be closed Monday, September 5. For emergency services, please call (800) 552-2577.

# A Faster Future is Just a Few Clicks Away!

Fiber internet from Connect, powered by Washington EMC, will be a game changer for Washington EMC members.

### Connect's broadband services will allow you to...

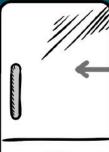
- Work from home seamlessly and productively
- Videoconference friends and family
- Upload and download with the same fast speeds
- And more!

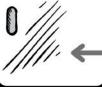
## The possibilities are endless with fiber!



# Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.







Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.



Food in a **half-full** freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a **full** freezer will last 43 hours.

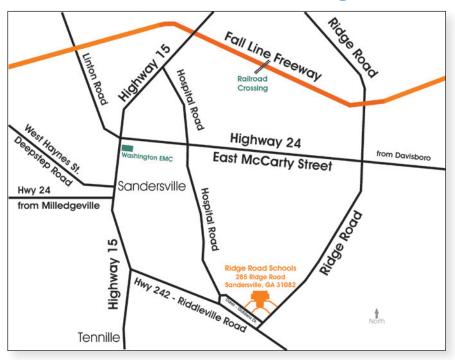
## **Food Safety Tips**

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- 2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
- Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

## When in doubt, throw it out!



# Join us for the 2022 Annual Meeting



he 2022 Annual Meeting of Members of Washington Electric Membership Corp. will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 1, 2022, in the Ridge Road Schools cafeteria located at 285 Ridge Road in Sandersville. The location is easily accessed from Highway 88 (Fall Line Freeway), Highway 24 (Davisboro Road) and Highway 242 (Riddleville Road).

This location offers convenient access and ample parking. Be sure to join us for your Annual Meeting.



## Plan now to attend 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

### Saturday October 1, 2022

Ridge Road Schools 285 Ridge Road Sandersville, GA

Registration and voting begins at 8:30 a.m. Business meeting starts at 10 a.m. Call to order Invocation Reading of notice Minutes of previous meeting Reports to the membership Election of directors Old business New business Attendance prize drawing Adjourn

## SAVE THE DATE October 1, 2022 Annual Meeting

**Attendance Gift–Cutting Board** 



## GRAND PRIZE

Credit on your power bill! Must be present to win.

Register to receive instant prizes and more!